

134.30
MS

8B1MFR1V *****CAR-RT LDT**C019
#0000 2911 2307#
005 DTN
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620
JAN 05 2011
51019 P1

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

1877

BER 30, 2010

VOL. 134

No. 30



Covering Mississippi in Prayer begins

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptists will start 2011 with a prayer campaign unprecedented in both the Southern Baptist Convention and Mississippi history, with prayer rallies scheduled in every county in the state during the first three months of the year and more than 40,000 prayer warriors seeking God daily.

Covering Mississippi in Prayer will kick off January 3, with the first rallies near the birthplace of Mississippi Baptists at Woodville Church in Wilkinson County at 9 a.m. and Ebenezer Church in Amite County at 11 a.m. The final rally will be in Monroe County at 4 p.m. on March 29.

In between will be 87 additional prayer rallies covering the entirety of the state. Local Baptist associational offices and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will be sponsoring the rallies.

"The vision began five years ago when the convention adopted Acts 1:8 as its theme," said Steve Stone, MBCB associate executive director for church growth. "The convention theme for 2011 is Covering Mississippi in Prayer, based on Acts 1:14."

"By February 2009, the associational missions directors and MBCB staff had come together to develop the plan for carrying out the vision of Covering Mississippi in Prayer. The associational missions directors embraced the plan and wanted to move forward. Regional areas were created by the missions directors to work on prayer strategies for their region."

A lapel pin for the campaign was designed and attached to individual cards on which people can make a commitment to pray for Covering Mississippi in Prayer before 8 a.m. on every day of 2011. The cards have been pouring into the Baptist Building in Jackson, Stone said.

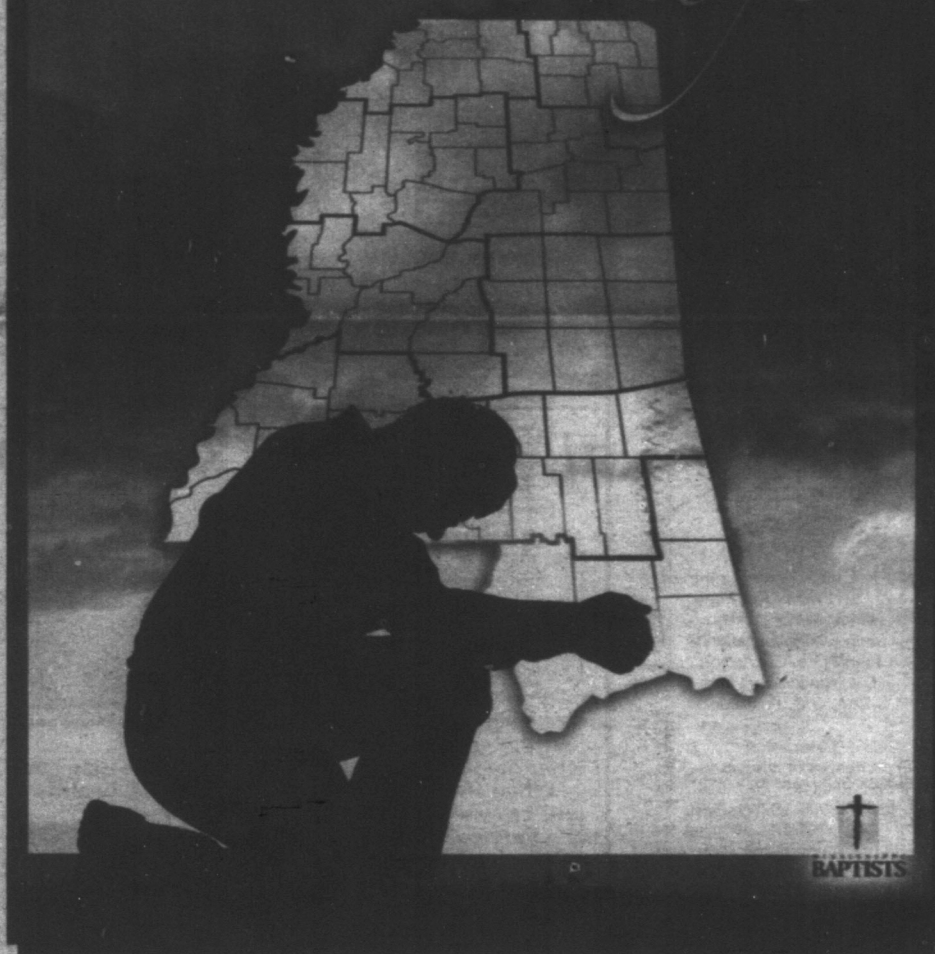
"We thought we were being ambitious when we ordered 10,000 prayer warrior lapel pins. Our most recent order brings the total number to 47,000 pins with no end in sight. People have really embraced Covering Mississippi in Prayer and the commitment to pray every day for the campaign," he said.

"Covering Mississippi in Prayer is simply a call to prayer for everyone in our state," said Jim Futral, MBCB executive director-treasurer, who will be the keynote speaker at each rally. "While we all need to be praying regularly and fervently, we are attempting to focus all of God's people on meeting with the Lord 365 days in 2011. The goal is not just to pray for Mississippi but for all Mississippians to be praying."

"Our hope was to enlist people who would commit to pray every morning before 8 o'clock for our state and beyond. We want every town, city, and county to be filled with people joining in this effort."

The signed prayer warrior cards that have been sent in will be displayed in the lobby of the Baptist Building in Jackson, Stone said, and even those plans have had to be expanded as large numbers of the cards continue to be received.

Covering Mississippi in Prayer



Each rally will be approximately 45 minutes in length. The rallies will open with prayer and special music arranged by local associational missions directors, followed by a 10-15 minute address by Futral.

No chairs will be needed, but attendees are welcome to bring their own seating. The prayer rallies are open to all.

A special resource section of the MBCB web site, www.mbc.org, has been established to assist in the planning and promotion of Covering Mississippi in Prayer.

The section includes items on getting started, training events, teaching on prayer, clip art, and a listing of rally dates, times, and locations.

The calendar can also be found on page nine of the Covering Mississippi in Prayer Resource Guide insert of the 2011 Church Design Handbook.

For more information, contact local associational missions directors or Steve Stone. Stone may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3310 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 310. E-mail: sbell@mbcb.org.

"Imagine what can happen when more than 40,000 Mississippi Baptist prayer warriors invade the throne room of God," Stone said. "I believe we're going to see the beginning of a movement that will penetrate the lostness of our state."

Prayers asked as Ivory Coast sees clashes

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (BP) — Simmering political tensions erupted into deadly violence Dec. 16 on the streets of Abidjan, Ivory Coast's main city, as Christians called for prayer and unity.

Up to 30 people were killed by government security forces, according to witnesses and news reports, as marching protesters tried and failed to reach the state television building. Heavy gunfire was heard near an upscale hotel currently occupied by former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara, one of two men claiming to be the duly elected president of the West African nation.

Clouds of tear gas rose from other neighborhoods where Ouattara supporters confronted government security forces. An Ivorian human rights group said police were firing on people in the city "with the intention to kill."

Troops loyal to competing presidential factions reportedly clashed in Abidjan and other cities and towns.

By Dec. 17, Abidjan's streets were mostly deserted except for heavily armed police as more fighting loomed.

Ivory Coast, a once-stable nation torn apart by civil war in 2002-03, plunged into a new national crisis following a disputed presidential runoff election Nov. 28. Ouattara ran against incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo.

The Independent Electoral Commission declared Ouattara the winner with 54% of the vote. He has been recognized as president by the United Nations, the African Union and much of the international community.

The national Constitutional Council invalidated the electoral commission's results, citing fraud, and Gbagbo refuses to hand over the reins of power to Ouattara. Both leaders have

set up competing governments, each with armed forces.

Gbagbo occupies government buildings. Ouattara sits in the cross-town hotel, guarded by U.N. peacekeepers and former rebel fighters.

"We are still in a deadlock and are praying to the Lord to intervene and bring peace and stability in the country," said Seydou Toure, an elder at Treichville Baptist Church in Abidjan. "We have now two presidents and two governments, and people are trying to do the mediation and solve the political issue."

Special prayer meetings are being held in Baptist churches across the country, according to Toure. There are 106 Baptist churches in Ivory Coast; 50 of them are in Abidjan.

"The people are discouraged. They are very discouraged and are affected by the situation we are going through," Toure said. "The churches and pastors are still praying for the Lord to stretch His blessed hand upon Ivory Coast so that peace, tranquility and stability can come."

The president of neighboring Ghana, John Evans Atta Mills, also called on Christians and Muslims in his country to pray for the people of Ivory Coast during a special time of intercession Dec. 17-19 in churches and mosques. Diplomacy can be aided, he said, by the "role the Almighty can play when we all call on Him and ask for His divine intervention."

"Many Ivorians live day to day, meal to meal in a good week," an Abidjan-based Christian worker said. "If one day's work is interrupted, it can dramatically affect their lives."

"We know that many of our African friends are struggling because of the immediate impact this conflict has already had on their lives economically."



NO PEACE — A young man peers through the window of a church in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in this file photo. Violence has erupted in the West African nation as a disputed presidential election has reopened longstanding national wounds. Ivorian Baptists and Christian workers are calling for prayer for peace and hearts open to the Gospel. (BP photo)

The violence, he added, reflects longstanding divisions. "It is interesting that there seems to be the north/Muslim versus south/Christian element, but there also seem to be other dividing opinions as well, especially concerning the economics of the country," he observed.

"Overall, the Christians I know are reaffirming that 'God is in control.' They know there is nowhere to go and nothing else to do but trust in His ultimate will and protection."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy was one of several calling for its citizens to leave the country. Some missionaries have been advised to stay

indoors by local village leaders until tensions ease.

The election was intended to unify the country after the civil war divided it.

The opposite appears to be happening. "We are praying that God will give us a solution and choose the person that He desires," said a Christian worker who lives in the north.

"Since the civil war here back in 2002-03, the hearts of the people are deeply divided," the worker said. The people in the north feel like they've never had a voice and the ones in the south have been the ones to have all the power and voice.

Looking back

10 years ago

New Orleans Seminary installs a baptistery in a remodeled classroom so that students might practice and train in how to baptize. "Baptism is something I had to learn by trial and error," says Jerry Barlow, a professor at NOBTS.

20 years ago

Seventeen men and boys from Lee and Pontotoc Associations travel to Galesburg, Illinois, to prepare a former school building for use by Illinois Baptist College. The school recently had the opportunity to purchase the school building and grounds for a permanent campus.

50 years ago

The newly-elected Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board includes chairman Carey Cox, Brandon; vice-president D.C. Applegate, Starkville; and recording secretary N.F. Davis, Aberdeen.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

DECEMBER 30, 2010

VOL. 134

No. 49



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

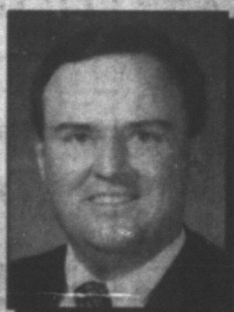
If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Lula Bell on YouTube

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP) — A YouTube video showing a Christmas pageant camel falling sideways into church pews has put a Baptist congregation in the national spotlight and given church leaders an unexpected media opportunity to discuss spiritual matters. It all began Dec. 9, during a dress rehearsal at First Church in West Palm Beach, FL, when a 1,000-plus-pound camel named Lula Bell decided not to follow the script. The plan was to have Lula Bell kneel in the back of an aisle and let rider Alex Jones off so that he, playing one of the wise men, could walk to the front of the church and place his gift before Jesus. Lula Bell, though, didn't want to kneel. Instead, after fighting briefly with the handler, she stood up, lost her balance and fell sideways into three pews, where college students who had been invited to a free show scrambled to get out of way. It lasted only 10-15 seconds, but for those who were in attendance, it seemed like an eternity. Thankfully, no one — not even Lula Bell — was hurt, but the event made Lula Bell, and the church, an Internet sensation. The clip has been viewed more than 300,000 times on YouTube and been broadcast on The O'Reilly Factor, Today Show, Anderson Cooper 360, and Inside Edition. While some media members have been interested only in broadcasting the clip, others have interviewed senior pastor Jimmy Scroggins or worship leader Chuck Lewis, giving them a chance to spread the Gospel. For her part, Lula Bell calmly stood up and walked out of the room. She was later cut from the cast, her chances of stardom doomed.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Life for a Southern Baptist missionary and his family is never easy. That's not to say there is no joy for them, because there is indeed great joy in the service of the Lord. They have been called by God and have surrendered to His leading of their own free will, and there is no greater thrill than helping to lead people to salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Still, it's not easy. There is the worry of being separated by great distances from loved ones who need them, such as elderly parents or children in college back in the U.S. There are the manifestly foreign cultures they encounter, from violent religious extremists to passive pantheists. There are the difficult twists and turns of raising children — yea, teenagers — without the support system back home.

They seldom complain about the conditions under which they serve, whether it be a lack of electricity and potable water or the political maneuverings within the convention that commissioned them to their important work. They just go about their God-ordained mission, winning souls and oblivious to all the roadblocks the Evil One places in front of them.

Some of them have paid the ultimate earthly price for obeying God's call on their lives. While records indicate only 25 Southern Baptist missionaries on the field have met a violent end in the 158-year history of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board/International Mission Board, that's 25 too many of God's specially-chosen people.

During this season of international missions emphasis across the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, may we pause

for just a few moments to remember those servants who were faithful unto death:

- **March 15, 2004** — Larry T. Elliott; Jean Dover Elliott; Karen Denise Watson; and David McDonnell, shot and killed in drive-by ambush in Mosul, Iraq, while scouting humanitarian projects. McDonnell's wife Carrie was critically injured but survived.

- **March 4, 2003** — Bill Hyde, working in Philippines. Killed by a terrorist bomb planted at Davao City Airport.

- **December 30, 2002** — Bill Koehn, Martha Myers, and Kathy Gariety, working at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen. Murdered by a Muslim extremist.

- **April 21, 1998** — Charles W. Hood Jr., working in Colombia, South America. Shot to death in his front yard by robbers.

- **March 23, 1995** — Chu Hon and Kei Yi, Khabarovsk, working in Russia. Murdered in their locked apartment.

- **March 27, 1991** — Lynda Bethea, working in Kenya. Beaten to death by highway robbers near Kijabe, Kenya. Her husband Larry was also brutally beaten but survived.

- **October 2, 1990** — Mary Anna Gilbert, working in China. Killed in crash of hijacked Chinese jetliner in Guangzhou, China (teacher with Cooperative Services International).

- **November 26, 1986** — Libby Senter, working in Liberia. Murdered along with her daughter Rachel.

- **October 11, 1985** — James Philpot, working in Mexico. Shot dead during an altercation after a minor automobile accident.

- **June 15, 1978** — Archie G. Dunaway Jr., working in Rhodesia. Killed by guerrillas seeking an African-majority government in the white-ruled, former British colony.

- **March 11, 1973** — Gladys Hopewell, working in Taiwan. No details of her murder were available.

- **January 16, 1972** — Mavis Pate, working in the Gaza area of the Middle East. Shot by Arab guerrillas in ambush as she drove near a refugee camp.

- **July 7, 1971** — Paul E. and Nancy Potter, working in the Dominican Republic. No details of their murders were available.

- **February 10, 1951** — William L. Wallace, working in China, died in communist prison. Many people familiar with Wallace's case believe the physician was tortured to death by the Communist Chinese in power at the time.

- **January 1942** — Rufas F. Gray, working in China. Died in Japanese camp for war prisoners in Baguio, Philippines.

- **December 1880** — John Westrup, working in Mexico. Murdered by band of 20 Indians and Mexicans while traveling from Santa Rosa to Monterey.

- **October 1, 1861** — J. Landrum Holmes, working in China. Murdered while attempting to dissuade invaders from attacking the village of Chu Kia on Shantung Peninsula during the Taiping Rebellion.

An additional 41 Southern Baptist workers are recorded as having been killed in accidents while on the mission field, while countless others have survived violent crimes such as assaults, highway robberies, and armed carjackings.

For 2,000 years, there has been a constant element of danger in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and there's still a need for people willing to answer the Great Commission in hostile areas of the world. All they're asking of us is to support them sacrificially through prayer, giving, and going.

After what our Savior did for us, it's the least we can do for Him.

EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING

Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS

Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson
Sharon Neff, Cleveland
John Price, Charleston
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

Postmaster:

Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800

Fax: (601) 292-3330

E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 134 • NUMBER 49

(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

Remember the martyrs

First Church of Gautier is a growing church — in more ways than one.

David Aultman accepted a call in January, 2004, to pastor the church. Since that time, First Church has experienced phenomenal growth. He is an energetic and committed pastor. Just in 2010 to date, there have been 27 baptisms. In addition to the baptisms, there have been 24 individuals to join the church by promise of letter or statement of faith.

When a church is healthy, it will grow. A warm fellowship is a very basic index pointing to the health of this church. This is a church that is an outward looking church.

On October 31, a Family Fall Festival was held for the community. Over 500 visitors attended. The church provided free food and activities. On November 20, a community-wide Thanksgiving meal was hosted. There was no cost and the entire community was invited, with over 350 people attending. Half were non-church members.

The teaching at First Church is centered on Christ and his redeeming love for humanity. Souls are won to Christ by feeling God's pres-

GUEST OPINION:



Spirit led, Bible fed

By Shelby Lawrence, member
First Church, Gautier

ence. The long and short of all is that a healthy church is a worshipping church.

The word "active" member in most churches means those who attend regularly and financially support the church. Not much more is expected. At First Church, every Christian is expected to use his or her gifts and talents in ministry.

The massive talents have been awakened and unleashed and there has been an explosion of growth at an unprecedented rate.

In January 2006, the church was blessed with another dynamic man of God, Steve Bufkin. He is the minister of music and incorporates both contemporary and traditional music, so that there is something for everyone. This writer

grabs the weekly bulletin each week, eager to see what music is planned for the service.

Then along came Wayne McMahon and what a wonderful youth leader he is. Wayne accepted a call in July 2009. It is marvelous to see such a large number of youth participating in Christian service and to see their sweet, smiling faces sitting at the front of the church. He knows how to relate to the younger generation and as a result, here too the growth has mushroomed.

Missions are a vital and active part of the church. Out of the congregation, there are several families and individuals serving in different parts of the world as well as in the U.S.

After massive renovation following Hurricane Katrina,

the church is embarking on an expansion and remodeling project.

Day care has approximately 45 children each day. There is a waiting list of over 100 children and it is the goal of the church to expand to accommodate over 70. This is an opportunity to impart the Gospel to the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

The large number of youth also necessitates more space. The youth program has more than doubled in the past year. They are growing both numerically and spiritually. It is their desire to stand against the things of this world and to stand up for our Lord.

In the remodeling, a youth complex will be created that will allow for continued growth in this department. There will be seven classrooms for group study and an assembly room of over 1700 square feet.

All over our nation, churches are experiencing a "falling away." Prayer has been a very important factor in the growth of First Church of Gautier. None of the accomplishments would have been possible were it not for the Hand of God.

We thank you, Lord!

Ag basics course at SEBTS trains future missionaries

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Aiming to grow opportunities to share the Gospel in the developing world, agricultural principles were taught in addition to the usual theology and church history classes this fall at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Professionals from Bayer CropScience donated their time and expertise to teach a six-week course in the basics of agriculture so that students at the seminary and members of local churches could be certified to work in developing countries around the world.

According to the Bayer CropScience website, the multi-

billion-dollar company specializes in crop protection, non-agricultural pest control, seeds, and plant biotechnology.

Herb Young, a marketing production manager at Bayer, first began to pursue the idea of agriculture classes at Southeastern after conversations with several students. As part of a small group at The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., Young realized there was a need for training that would open doors for believers to share the Gospel in restricted-access countries.

After being approached by three separate students asking for his expertise on the subject

of agriculture, Young recognized the opening the Lord was giving him to make an impact among the nations.

"It was a clear message that the Lord would like me to pursue this," he said.

Young spoke with Bayer colleagues Phil Gibson, Nick Hammon, Paul Hewitt, and Randy Myers. Together they developed a syllabus and schedule for the class. They approached Scott Hildreth of Southeastern's Center for Great Commission Studies about hosting the sessions on the campus in Wake Forest.

"The students wanted further training to help them develop a platform as they go overseas," Hildreth said. "Herb had experience helping some guys with agriculture overseas, helping them transition from teaching English as a Second Language to agricultural classes, so he thought he could help

them with some kind of training that will give them a reason to be where they'll live."

A global need for increased knowledge of crops and agriculture led Bayer CropScience to support the Southeastern class, Young said.

"Bayer has a strategic concern for the projected 9.2 billion global population estimates for 2050. In the next 40 years, food production is projected to need to increase by 70% in order to satisfy increased numbers and increased standards of living," Young said.

"Through seed technology and crop protection, Bayer has a strong conviction to be a part of the solution for this coming global dilemma."

Hewitt, who taught on soil fertility, said, "We are humbled to help in this very small way to contribute anything that might enable the spread of the Gospel."

Plans for similar classes already are in the works. In addition to agricultural classes, Hildreth said they also are working on classes on business and rural medicine.

Anything that might be used to enable students to share the message of Christ is a possibility for a platform, Hildreth said. "Take these ideas around the world and use it for the sake of the Gospel," he told the students.

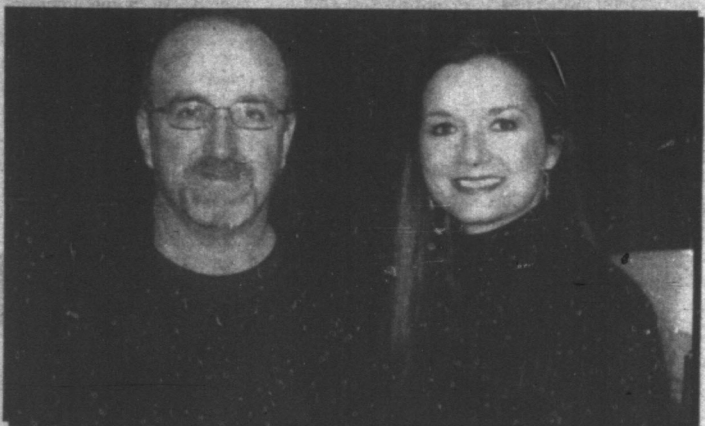


STAFF CHANGES

1. Pastor Odus Jackson is re-retiring from active pastoral ministry. He has been serving the church that sent him out 59 years ago, Galilee First Church, Gloster. His last day was Dec. 29, and he will be available for supply preaching.
2. Grace Southern Church, Calhoun City, has called Ervin Wright as pastor. He and his wife Peggy were former members of Calvary Church, Oxford. Wright was licensed and ordained by the Oxford church.
3. Sauls Valley Church, Monticello, recently called David Whitehead as pastor. Shown are Hulon McKenzie, Whitehead, and Buddy Ward.
4. Dummy Line Enon Church, Batesville, has called Keith Bolen as pastor. Shown are Bolen and his wife, Lisa.



3. McKenzie, Whitehead, and Ward



4. The Bolens

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Mississippi College (MC) held a commissioning ceremony for the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Dec. 11, commissioning four students. Those commissioned included Cadet Joseph Spears, Raymond, as well as three students from Jackson State University. Spears is a kinesiology major and also serves in the Army National Guard, the 113th Military Police Company in Raymond. Shown are members of an Armed Forces Color Guard at the final home game of the season for the MC Choctaws in November. The group includes (from left) Navy, Air Force, Army Cadet Spears, and Marines.



1. MC Color Guard

2. MC's Art Department invited residents of the Wingard Home near downtown Jackson to the Clinton campus for some Christmas cheer, including a visit from Santa, a meal, and dozens of teddy bears.

3. Patricia Johnson, a 1974 graduate of the MC School of Nursing, was recently recognized as one of the 100 Great Nurses of Louisiana. Honorees are selected by their peers and patients based on their contributions to the community and nursing profession.



3. Johnson

4. MC graduate Fred Slabach was recently named the new president at Texas Wesleyan University. Slabach begins his duties as the 19th pres-



4. Slabach

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

FNKASG TAE CAG ELR
WRNE PLOHL YRGOXL-
REL, KSE CAG ELNE
WRNE PLOHL RTBS-
GREL STEA RIRGFNX-
EOTD FOCR, PLOHL
ELR XAT AC WNT
XLNFF DOIR STEA UAS:
CAG LOW LNEL DAB
ELR CNELRG XRNFRB.
VALT XOQ: EPRTEU-
XRIRT

Clue: F = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six: Forty-one

COVERING MISSISSIPPI IN PRAYER

Covering Mississippi in Prayer is more than a theme for our Convention. It has literally become a movement and not just a movement of people getting involved in activities in churches and associations across our state. It is a movement toward God. It is a call for thousands of people to commit to praying every morning before 8 o'clock for self, servants, and souls. It is a 365-day commitment to cover your day with prayer as we cover our state and even beyond in prayer.

While we were wanting to have at least 10,000 prayer warriors who would commit to daily gathering around the throne of God in prayer, that number has already escalated to somewhere over 30,000. Just think about what can happen if people take this commitment seriously and genuinely, passionately, and fervently get before God in prayer asking Him to do something —

- for them as they pray for self

- for God to work in leaders, people in positions of authority whether they are in government, church, school, or business

- for souls, not just in general but to allow God to put those names on your heart that day by day you will pray for them to allow Him to lead in their life so that they can come to know Jesus as Savior.

As a part of *Covering Mississippi in Prayer* and calling attention to the great need for believers to join in praying for our state, we will be having Prayer Rallies all across the state in January, February, and March. We have 82 counties and a number of them have two county seats. As of now, we will be having 90 Prayer Rallies across Mississippi in three months.

They will be public gatherings whether outside on courthouse steps or sometimes at a church. One of these rallies will be taking place in your area. While I will be at each one of the rallies and be encouraging people who may

not have made a commitment to join in this great army of prayer, we encourage people in your churches and throughout your associations to come and be a part of the prayer rally near you. We will be giving the schedule of where they will be and if you will watch, one will be located near you.

While I will be speaking briefly at each of the rallies, they will not be preaching rallies. They are prayer rallies. They will be a demonstration of God's people coming together and a reflection of what will be taking place day after day. While they will be rallies for people to attend, they are not just public gatherings, but prayer rallies. In a biblical sense, you might say that they are countywide solemn assemblies where we hear from and respond to God's call to us to pray. God gave that incredible verse at the dedication of the temple in II Chronicles 7:14, which says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." May God allow the sparks of revival to be scattered throughout America and across the counties of our state as we *Cover Mississippi in Prayer*.

Over these next three months and then some later on in *Directions*, the column that I

write each week, will be focused on prayer and called *Prayer Points* as we *Cover Mississippi in Prayer*. Each week I will be taking a different facet of prayer and talking about it. I would hope that many of you who have made the commitment have already started a daily exercise of praying before 8 o'clock each morning. A spiritual discipline is being set in your life that will not only bring great blessings but will strengthen you in your walk with the Lord as over the 365 days of 2011, there will be mornings that you will start out with a beautiful sunrise and great expectations. Possibly, there will be days when the clouds have come in, the day is dreary, and the future at best seems to be bleak. On all of those days, you will do nothing more significant at all than starting your day with The Lord.

No doubt, many of you have been in services at your church or maybe in other meetings where you had opportunities to make that commitment and your name be added to the Wall of Prayer *Covering Mississippi*. If not, you may want to lead your Sunday School group, or encourage your pastor and help him have a special emphasis in a service one Sunday that would call for believers to join in this commitment. If you need commit-



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

• Prayer Points

ment cards and lapel pins that reflect us *Covering Mississippi in Prayer*, call 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 310 at the Baptist Building and order the materials.

The very first rally will take place on Monday, January 3, at 9 a.m. at Woodville Baptist Church, Wilkinson County, in the area where Baptist work initially began in the state of Mississippi. Three other rallies will be held that Monday at the following times and locations:

11:00 a.m. — Ebenezer BC, Liberty, Amite County
2 p.m. — Franklin County Courthouse, Meadville,
4 p.m. — Adams County Courthouse, Natchez

If you have not signed a card and made a commitment, would you even now ask God to enlist you as one of the faithful prayer warriors who will meet each morning in prayer? I do hope that you had a wonderful Christmas celebration and that your heart will be fixed on the heart of God as we walk into 2011 *Covering Mississippi in Prayer*.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

SYLVA RENA BAPTIST CHURCH, Yalobush County, Ms., is seeking a full time Pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee Chairman, 17846 Hwy 32, Water Valley, Ms. 38965.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OCEAN SPRING, MS is seeking to fill the full-time position of Student and Adult Discipleship Minister. Send resumes or inquiries to fbcos@fbcos.org or mail to First Baptist Church, ATTN: Search Committee, 602 Washington Ave. Ocean Springs, MS 39564. The Church phone number is call 228-875-4332.

LOOXAHOMA BAPTIST CHURCH in Senatobia, MS is currently seeking a part-time youth minister. Send resume to 808 Lyles Rd. Senatobia, MS 38668 or leave message 662-562-8447.

MAGNOLIA BAPTIST CHURCH in Laurel MS is looking for a Bi Vocational Minister of Music. Please send resume to: Magnolia Baptist Church, 1040 Wansley Rd., Laurel MS 39440

CLASSIFIED ADS

CASEVILLE MANOR-NEWLY OPENED Private Care Home. Nurse owned and operated, nurse or cna on duty 24 hours daily. We accept ambulatory, non-ambulatory, hospice and respite patients. Private bedroom and bath. 601-823-0922 Wesson, Ms.

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

GATLINBURG CONDO FOR RENT: 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, walk to pkwy. \$70/nite. 832-922-0401/pdw4760@att.net

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC. SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

BETSY'S LIL' CABIN - \$250.00 PER week or \$60.00 per night. 601-940-6841 or 601-643-8817.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

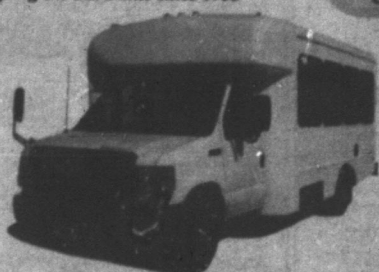
GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com
CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Friendship Church, McComb:** Revival, Jan. 9 - 13; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; Charles Davis, Rick Kenedy, Tim Parker, Alton Foster, and Barry Ward, speakers; Phillip Alford, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Carpenter BUS SALES

going the extra mile since 1953



Visit www.carpenterbus.com to see over 100 New & Used Buses in Stock. We buy buses and welcome Trade-Ins.

Call Toll Free: 800.370.6180

We Rent Buses!
15 to 41 Passenger
Buses Available
Call Leann for Rates

LifeWay
CHURCH BUS SALES
Biblical Solutions for Life
A Division of LifeWay Christian Stores

CD or IRA Maturing?

Learn about a safe
investment that beats low
bank rates & avoid probate

Ask us about 7.5%
Guaranteed Income
Growth Rider.

O'Mire Financial

1-800-844-3254
406 B Orchard Park Dr.
Ridgeland, MS 39157

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

A Lifestyle of Community

Ephesians 4:1-32

By Becky Brown

The word fellowship has been simply (and joyfully) defined as "two fellows in the same ship." Fellowship is what we achieve as we dwell together and work on how to "relay-son-ship" to others who need a relationship with Jesus. The word "community" sails in deeper waters. Christian "community" is defined by our individual declarations of WHO we are in relation to WHOSE we are. We are one in Christ. We serve God the Father, Captain of our souls. We are indwelt by Their First Mate, God the Holy Spirit. Community is a LIFE BOAT filled with resurrected riders who are sailing toward a rowdy, reverently worshipful reunion in Heaven with the LIFE SAVER (Jesus!) while throwing out the LIFE LINE to lost folks who are sinking on

the waves along the journey. A few years back, we would have named this vessel the Love Boat.

On his third and final missionary journey, Paul came to Ephesus. He discovered twelve disciples there. You can read this story in Acts 19-20. Paul remained with them for approximately three years. In spite of a few riots and other assorted difficulties, they loved him and he loved them. Their tearful farewell scene requires a whole box of tissues. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul penned this community-building letter to the Ephesians from a prison cell several years later. We study chapter four this week. These truths still apply.

God is one: Father, Son, Spirit. He desires one-ness for His children. To "commune" means to communicate. I talk



Brown

to myself quite often, but I never get a straight answer until I talk with God in prayer or with others in conversation. God designed people to need Him and to need each other. Adam needed Eve.

Marriage and family were God's idea. The

people of God began as a band of twelve brothers whose descendants became a nation of twelve tribes. Jesus chose twelve men to disciple. He chose three of those twelve to walk a little deeper into the gardens of His life on Earth. Jesus sent out a seventy-member mission team comprised of thirty-five pairs of co-working partners. The early church began with 120 praying members. That unified group of believers soon grew exponentially by three thousand then five thousand. In response to the touch of Jesus on their lives, the loving arms of that first century community reached all the way to the chair

you are sitting in right now. Feel their hug?

In Ephesians four (and in countless other lines of his love letters), Paul tells us that we are called to community. God is the Caller. You and I are the called. We live together. We learn together. We work together. We exercise our spiritual gifts to benefit one another so that we can build up the church and reach out to others with more endurance. We grow together. We agree to disagree but still remain together. We encourage one another and challenge each other. We worship together. We pray together. We stand firmly together, united against the enemies of the cross of Christ. You need me. I need you. We both need to be united by the Holy Spirit into the family of God. We cannot offer to others something we do not possess.

That famously familiar rally cry declares: "All for one and one for all!" Believers living in true community recognize that this statement works best when we capitalize and personalize the ONE. God is the One Who

is for us. He sent Jesus so that we might be for Him and with Him. In Romans 8:31, Paul challenged, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" I'm grateful to be a member of the GOD FOR US community.

Mother quoted Ephesians 4:32 quite often at our house. My preacher's kid sister and I managed to be involved in sibling rivalry. Mom preferred sibling harmony. She would remind us that we were to be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving. Years later, through my study of the languages of the Bible, I would come to better understand and appreciate what those words meant. We were to be filled with goodness and not meanness (kind). We were to be sweet from the inside out and really mean it and not just say it (tender-hearted). We were to be for giving rather than for taking (forgiving). Come, let us commune with God and with one another.

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Anatomy of a Grave Decision

1 Kings 12:3-8, 16-18, 22-24

By Dr. W. Wayne VanHorn

As we continue our study of 1 and 2 Kings, we focus on the division of the kingdom after Solomon's death. This week's Lesson Passages are about decisions Rehoboam, made after Solomon died. One of the first things Rehoboam, did was to journey to Shechem where the northern tribes would swear allegiance to him. Shechem was the site where Joshua celebrated the renewal of the covenant at the conclusion of the conquest of the promised land (Josh. 24). While at Shechem, Rehoboam had a conversation with Jeroboam, one of his father's important servants (1 Kings 11:28). Jeroboam had fled to Egypt to escape death after the prophet Ahijah predicted he would become king over the 10 northern tribes (1 Kings 11:29-40). After Solomon died, Jeroboam was summoned by

the northern tribes to be their spokesman before Rehoboam.

The northern tribes offered Rehoboam a straightforward arrangement. They would serve him as their king in exchange for him lightening the labor his father had forced upon them. This episode allows us the advantage of examining the situation and studying Rehoboam's decision making skills. First, Rehoboam told the northerners to go home and to return in three days. This step was wise. Whenever we are facing major decisions, we should take some time to think and to pray about our decision. Second, Rehoboam sought the advice of the elders, those men who had worked closely with his father. They had gained wisdom by observing both Solomon's wise and foolish decisions. Their advice would be invaluable to Rehoboam. Whenever we are



VanHorn

facing major decisions, we should seek advice from wise counselors or trusted friends as well. Rehoboam went an additional step and asked the advice of his young cohorts. They brought energy and fresh insight to the decision-making process and helped

Rehoboam get a different view of the situation.

When the three days ended, the northern tribes returned to Rehoboam. In spite of taking time to consider and to get advice from others, Rehoboam made a bad decision. He ignored the seasoned advice of the elders and accepted the advice of his young fire-brand friends. Essentially, the elders advised Rehoboam to "lighten up." If he did, he would gain all Israel as his servants. The young friends advised Rehoboam to "tighten up." He opted to take the harsher stand and to demand complete loyalty and increased labor.

When Rehoboam threatened the northern tribes with more severe labor and disciplining

them with barbed whips (1 Kings 12:13-14), they decided to secede from the union. Jeroboam became their first king. Rehoboam was left as ruler over a truncated kingdom comprised of the tribe of Judah. The inspired writer of Kings interpreted this turn of events as a fulfillment of the prophecy of the LORD through Ahijah (1 Kings 12:15). The northerners asked, "What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son?" (1 Kings 12:16; NIV). These rhetorical questions carried with them the implied answer, "None!" The call, "To your tents, O Israel!" marked a clarion cry to separate from Rehoboam and Judah and perhaps to prepare for civil war.

Rehoboam did not give up readily. He sent Adoram, his overseer of forced labor, to Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:18). We do not know if he was sent to renegotiate or to enforce the harsher labor standards. At any rate, the northern tribes stoned him to death. No further negotiations occurred; no new labor quotas were set. The kingdom was irrevocably divided.

Rehoboam returned to Jerusalem and mustered an army of 180,000 troops in an effort to force the northern tribes to submit. God intervened in the story. He gave a revelation to Shemaiah, identified as "the man of God." Shemaiah was charged with telling Rehoboam and his subjects to stand down. He said, "You are not to march up against your brothers" (1 Kings 12:24; NIV). Then he instructed them to go home because this turn of events was the LORD's doing. Decision time again. This time Rehoboam and his people made a wise decision. They obeyed the word of the LORD and went home again, as the LORD had ordered" (1 Kings 12:24; NIV).

When making decisions we need to allow ourselves time to deliberate and to pray. We need to seek advice from others. Most of all, we need to discern God's will in the matter and obey Him. Then we can avoid making a grave decision.

Van Horn is Dean of Christian Studies and the Arts at Mississippi College.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

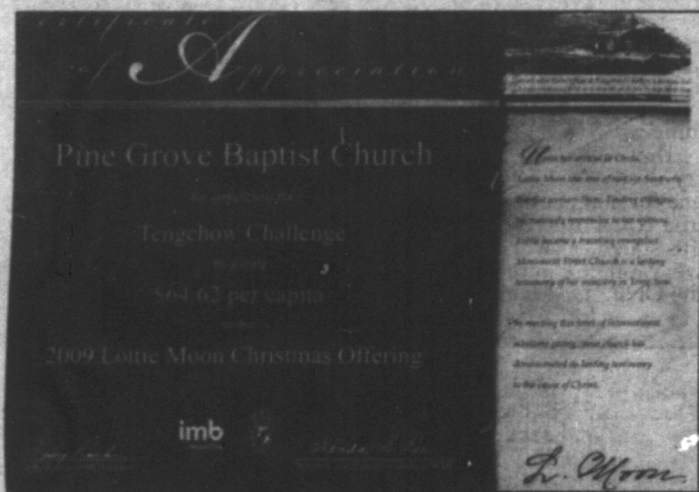
All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. Pine Grove Church, Dumas, met the 2009 Tengchow Challenge of giving between \$50 and \$75 per capita, based on the Sunday morning worship attendance, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Pine Grove gave \$64.62 per capita, placing the church in the top 4% of 45,000 Southern Baptist Churches. Shown is the certificate acknowledging this achievement.
2. The youth of Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn, honored veterans Nov. 7 with a breakfast and special service. Shown are the participants.
3. Members of Crystal Ridge Church, Louisville, worked to make 40 fruit baskets for the elderly of the church and community. Shown are Ken Spellman, Liz Spellman, Tim Garretson, Tammy Garretson, Amanda Eaves, and Harli Eaves.



1. Pine Grove Church, Dumas



1. Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn



1. Pine Grove Church, Dumas

2011 Associational Prayer Rallies

Wilkinson County 3-Jan-11 9:00 AM	Woodville Baptist Church 264 Natchez St Woodville 39669	Oktibbeha County 13-Jan-11 4:00 PM	Oktibbeha County Courthouse 101 E. Main St Starkville 39759
Amite County 3-Jan-11 11:00 AM	Ebenezer Baptist Church 2856 Ebenezer Church Rd Liberty 39645	Bolivar County 18-Jan-11 10:00 AM	Bolivar County Courthouse 200 Court St Cleveland 38732
Franklin County 3-Jan-11 2:00 PM	Franklin County Courthouse 36 Main St Meadville 39653	Sunflower County 18-Jan-11 NOON	Sunflower County Courthouse 300 Main St Indianola 38751
Adams County 3-Jan-11 4:00 PM	Adams County Courthouse 307 Market St Natchez 39120	Leflore County 18-Jan-11 2:00 PM	Leflore County Courthouse 306 W. Washington St Greenwood 38930
Scott County 4-Jan-11 9:00 AM	Forest Baptist Church 439 East First St Forest 39074	Simpson County 19-Jan-11 9:00 AM	Alice Davis Park 215 Main St North Mendenhall 39114
Newton County 4-Jan-11 11:00 AM	First Baptist Church 305 East Church St Newton 39345	Lawrence County 19-Jan-11 11:00 AM	Lawrence County Courthouse 517 E. Broad Monticello 39654
Neshoba County 4-Jan-11 2:00 PM	DeWeese Park/City Park West Beacon St Philadelphia 39350	Walthall County 19-Jan-11 2:00 PM	Centennial Park (Downtown) 748 Beulah St Tylertown 39667
Leake County 4-Jan-11 4:00 PM	First Baptist Church 402 N. Van Buren St Carthage 39051	Marion County 19-Jan-11 4:00 PM	Marion County Courthouse 250 Broad St Columbia 39429
Stone County 10-Jan-11 9:00 AM	Stone County Courthouse 323 East Cavers Wiggins 39577	Madison County 25-Jan-11 9:00 AM	Canton City Hall 226 E. Peace St Canton 39046
Hancock County 10-Jan-11 NOON	Hancock County Courthouse 3068 Longfellow Dr Bay St. Louis 39560	Hinds County 25-Jan-11 11:00 AM	Raymond City Hall 110 Courtyard Square 127 W. Main St Raymond 39154
Harrison County 10-Jan-11 2:00 PM	Harrison County Courthouse 1801 23rd Ave Gulfport 39501	Hinds County 25-Jan-11 2:00 PM	Jackson City Hall 219 S. President St Jackson 39201
Warren County 12-Jan-11 9:00 AM	Old Courthouse 1008 Cherry St Vicksburg 39183		
Issaquena County 12-Jan-11 11:00 AM	Issaquena County Courthouse 129 Court St Mayersville 39113		
Sharkey County 12-Jan-11 2:00 PM	Sharkey County Courthouse 400 Locust Rolling Fork 39159		
Yazoo County 12-Jan-11 4:00 PM	Church destroyed by Feb. Tornado Hillcrest Baptist Church 353 Bus Station Rd Yazoo City 39194		
Clay County 13-Jan-11 11:00 AM	Clay County Courthouse 205 Court St West Point 39773		
Lowndes County 13-Jan-11 2:00 PM	Lowndes County Courthouse 505 2nd Ave North Columbus 39701	<p>Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.</p>	

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Mixon

1. **Jerry W. Mixon** recently celebrated 50 years in ministry. He began his public ministry when Petal-Harvey Church licensed him to the ministry in 1960. He has spent the past ten years as director of stewardship for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He has pastored churches in Mississippi, Florida, and Arkansas. He is a graduate of William Carey University and New Orleans Seminary. He has served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and as vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention. He has written four books. He is married to the former Victoria Beech of Moss Point. The Mixons have two children.

2. **Central Church, McNeill**, presented Simple Gifts, a program of Christmas instrumental music, Dec. 12. Shown are the participants.

3. **Standing Pine Church, Leake County**, ordained Bob Beckham as deacon. Shown are pastor Jim Burns and Beckham.

4. The children and WOM of **Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia**, made bears to be distributed to local medical and emergency personnel for distribution as needed. Shown are the participants.

5. **Tiplersville Church, Tiptah County**, presented a children's Christmas program. Shown are the participants.

6. The children of **New Bethel Church, Carrollton**, presented their seasonal program in December, emphasizing that Jesus Christ is the real star. Shown are pastor Joseph Sansing and the children.

7. **First Church, Hazlehurst**, had a "snowstorm" Dec. 12 in conjunction with the children's choir performance. The evening also included a bonfire with s'mores, hot dogs, and hot chocolate. Other events included the celebration choir performance the same day, a Christmas extravaganza for grades 1 - 6 Dec. 17, and a joint carol sing with the choir from First Church, Crystal Springs, Dec. 19. Shown is Abby Matthews playing in the snow.

8. **First Church, Guntown**, ordained Jacob Dawe to the gospel ministry. Shown are Charlie Magees, Dawe, and pastor Bobby Robbins.

9. **First Church, Runnelstown** will host the Singing Echoes in concert Jan. 7, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received.

10. **New Life Fellowship, Oakland**, will have a watch night service Dec. 31, 8 p.m. and end at midnight, including preaching, praying, eating, and fellowship.

11. **Laurel Hill Church, Philadelphia**, will host Kevin Spencer and friends in concert Jan. 15, 7 p.m.



5. Tiplersville Church, Tiptah County



2. Central Church, McNeill



6. New Bethel Church, Carrollton



3. Beckham ordination



7. Abby Matthews



4. Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia



8. Dawe ordination

END